

KNOSSOS: SOCIAL USES OF A MONUMENTAL LANDSCAPE

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ABSTRACT

How does the archaeological site of Knossos become a monumental landscape? What qualities and meanings are objectified in it? In what ways is it viewed and experienced by specific social groups? This chapter explores different (and sometimes conflicting) perspectives of the famous Minoan monument, the restoration of which has had a considerable impact on the tourist visit and the construction and performance of Cretan identity. It approaches the Knossian landscape as a powerful solid metaphor used by different collectivities performing their own social roles with respect to the past and present of Crete.